

19. (New) A method for cutting an optical fiber according to Claim 17, wherein a blade thickness of said cutting blade is 0.5 mm or less, and/or a speed of movement of said cutting blade is 100 mm/minute or less.

20. (New) A method for cutting an optical fiber according to Claim 17, further comprising heating said cutting blade while cutting said optical fiber.

21. (New) A method for cutting an optical fiber according to Claim 17, wherein said cutting blade is moved by using an optical fiber cutting apparatus including said cutting blade, a cutting blade holder configured to hold and to move said cutting blade to a cutting position, an optical fiber supporter configured to support said optical fiber so as to position it perpendicular to said cutting blade at said cutting position, a speed reducing device configured to receive and to reduce a drive force, and a drive force transmission device configured to transfer said drive force from said speed reducing device to said cutting blade holder.

22. (New) A method for cutting an optical fiber according to Claim 21, wherein said drive force is provided by a motor.

23. (New) A method for cutting an optical fiber according to Claim 22, wherein said speed reducing device comprises a plurality of speed reducing gears configured to reduce a rotational speed of said motor.

24. (New) A method for cutting an optical fiber according to Claim 23, wherein said drive force transmission device comprises a cam configured to rotate along with the rotation of said plurality of speed reducing gears and a cam follower configured to move in a rectilinear direction along with the rotation of said cam.

25. (New) A method for cutting an optical fiber according to Claim 23, wherein a switching between transmission and stoppage of said drive force which is transmitted

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